103. The necessity for the representation of the Ezhava community in the Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. P. Madhavan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) pointed out that the Ezhavas constituted one-sixth of the entire population of the State and formed by no means an unimportant factor in the body politic. He also observed that the members of his community in British Malabar occupied positions of trust and responsibility in the municipal administration of the cities of Malabar. The municipalities of British India and the Town Improvement Committees of Travancore were established with a view to initiate the people into the rudiments of self-government and prepare them for greater participation in the government of the country. The opportunities for the purpose in Travancore so far as the Ezhavas were concerned were very limited. But the generous policy of the Government in the past enabled some members of the community to gain entrance into a few of the Committees in the State, as for instance in Neyyattinkara, Trivandrum, Kayenkulam, Mavelikara, Thiruvalla and Parur. Thirteen Committees still remained unrepresented. The community apprehended that, with the introduction of the principle of election of the non-official members of all the Committees, it would be cast into the background and neglected in municipal matters to the great detriment of the social and political amelioration of the community. The Member expressed the belief of the community that, for some time to come, the members of the community had not the remotest chance of being returned to the Assembly or to the Committees by popular election. It was the kind recognition by the Government of the disability of the community in that direction that prompted His Highness' Government to adopt the method of nomination of the representatives of the community for the Assembly and for some of the Committees. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to devise such measures as would assure the community a fair representation in the Committees in the State, at least until the community attained a stage of vantage in popular elections.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

104. Certain needs of Kayenkulam town.

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Trading Classes, Kayenkulam) stated that the following were some of the important needs of the town :—

(1) The Krishnapuram Munsiff's Court should be transferred to Kayenkulam. The matter was pressed more than once in the Assembly and the Government had declined to grant the prayer on the ground that the money transactions of the Court at Krishnapuram were with the Karunagapalli Sub-treasury and that the Munsiff's Court at Mavelikara was but 7 miles from Kayenkulam. (*Vide* G. O. No. J. 6800, dated 13-8-1914.) Krishnapuram was only 1½ miles from Kayenkulam, which was an important and growing town. It was inconvenient for the court to deal with the Karunagapalli treasury which was 7½ miles distant. It was easier to deal with the nearer Mavelikara treasury or, what was better, the Government should open a treasury at Kayenkulam. He requested therefore that the question of the transfer of the Krishnapuram Court to Kayenkulam might be reconsidered.

(2) For the convenience of the several public institutions in and around Kayenkulam, a sub-treasury in the town was quite essential and the Member requested that the Government should reconsider their decision in the matter, declining to sanction a sub-treasury for the place.

(3) The public offices in the town were mostly held in rented buildings. A separate building should be put up for the use of all the offices.

(4) A well for the use of the public should be dug in the town. There was no Sirkar land available. The necessary land had therefore to be acquired. In reply to the query from the Dewan whether it would do if a well be ordered to be constructed within the premises of the Magistrate's Court, the Member said that the proper place for the well would be somewhere near the market, but if a land could not be found for it there, the people would be satisfied with a well within the

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premises of the court. He suggested that the well be dug as near to the compound wall as possible adjoining the road so that all classes of people might have access to it.

Dewan.—Orders will be issued at once for the construction of a well within the premises of the Magistrate's Court. The well will be thrown open to the public.

(5) The Member continued and said that great inconvenience was felt for want of a boat-basin and proper landing ghats. The defect should be remedied by the construction of a boat-basin and four ghats. They were included in the programme of works but his request was that they should be treated as urgent and taken up at once instead of in the order of urgency.

(6) The following roads and bridges should be repaired :—

(*a*) The road from Kayenkulam to Nangiarkulangara should be metalled.

(*b*) The iron bridge south of the town should be repaired or dismantled at once.

(*c*) The lane to the east of the market should be converted into a road.

(*d*) A road running from the northern end of the western market to the canal in the east should be constructed and a landing ghat constructed at the terminus.

(*e*) The lane west of the western market should be converted into a road.

Revd. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayenkulam) pointed out the following needs of the town :—

(1) In the town there were no public burial grounds for interment or cremation of the dead of all classes. In the absence of such a provision, the enforcement of Section 70 (2) of the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation was unjust. A place should therefore be provided for the purpose by the Government in the interests of the diverse classes of people residing in the town. In that connection, he referred to the officers of the Government insisting on sanction being obtained before a cemetery was opened in any place, although the Royal Proclamation relating to the erection of places of public worship did not contain any such provisions. Thus the people were put to great trouble. He therefore urged that the Government should provide a plot of ground to be used for burying the dead—the ground being divided into several compartments for the use of each sect or caste and being charged with a light fee, if necessary.

(2) A pasture ground should be set apart for the use of the cattle of the town. That would diminish the inconvenience arising from stray cattle.

(3) A public market should be opened. If the Government could not afford to acquire the land required for the purpose, he suggested that a good deviation road be constructed after closing the road between the Iron bridge and the Northern bazaar. That would give the T. I. C. sufficient space for a public market.

(4) Public latrines and urinals were conspicuous by their absence in the town. They were very necessary and should be provided without delay.

(5) In consideration of the age, strength and creditable results of the Lower Grade Secondary School at Kayenkulam, and in view of the fact that there was no Higher Grade Secondary School in the taluk of Karthigapalli or Karunagapalli, the Member requested that the Government might be pleased to sanction the existing school being raised to a Higher Grade Secondary School.

(6) He also urged the immediate repair of the local Iron bridge in the interests of public safety.

Dewan's reply.— The repair of the Iron bridge will be treated as an urgent work and an estimate for the same called for at once from the Chief Engineer.

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In regard to the landing ghats and boat basins, estimates have been already sanctioned, and the Government will see if the works could be taken up sooner than according to the programme of works.

The other representations of the Members are noted.

105. The improvement of the public tanks in the town of Mavelikara.

Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said that there were only three public tanks within the town of Mavelikara for the use of the public for bathing and watering cattle. Even those tanks had become unfit for use owing to long neglect. During the hot season there would be no water in them.

Dewan's reply.—The need for the repair of these tanks was brought to my notice during my last tour in the Mavelikara taluk and a report has been called for from the Dewan Peishkar. The question will receive consideration on receipt of the Peishkar's report.

106. The sanitation of the town of Vaikam.

Mr. G. Aiyappen Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Vaikam) said that the existing outlets, constructed by the Government at great cost, to drain off the *kadi* from the Vaikom temple and the impure water from the temple tank, were not in working order, and consequently, the sanitary condition of the place was jeopardised. He requested that the outlets should be improved and the road to the west of the temple widened to provide ample accommodation for the vast concourse of people assembling on occasions of festivals.

He also requested that the portion of the Ettumanoor road near the Vaikam Hospital, which was in a very neglected condition, should be thoroughly repaired.

The two tanks on the east and north of the temple were under the control of the Devaswom authorities and the tanks were in a very bad state, highly prejudicial to the health of the town. The Member requested that those tanks should be handed over to the T. I. C.

He next pointed out that the arrack shops in the town were situated close to some of the public institutions and were a source of public nuisance. He requested that the shops might be shifted from their present sites and the Excise Department instructed to consult the Committee as regards the location or transfer of shops within the town.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

107. Improvements to be effected in the town of Kottayam.

Mr. K. M. Mathuila Mappilla (Member, T. I. C, Kottayam) said that the following improvements were necessary in the town and he requested that necessary action might be taken as early as possible :—

(1) The town roads were insufficient to meet the necessities of the public. The Kodimatha–Kanjikuzhi road was the principal public road in the town and that was the only road by which the people could go to all public institutions of the place. The growing importance of the town and the increased traffic on the above road demanded the construction of one or two roads parallel to it.

(2) The necessity of a public market in the town was keenly felt. The present market site was inadequate for the purpose. The existing market should therefore be extended or a fresh site acquired by the Government for the establishment of a public market. In view of the rapid rise in the value of lands, he requested that the matter should receive immediate attention.

(3) Bathing ghats should be constructed at Thazhathangadi, Puthanangadi, Kodimatha, Nagampadam and other convenient places for the use of the public as the want of such places was keenly felt by the people.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, will be asked to report on the Member's suggestion about the market place. The other suggestions of the Member will also be referred to the Peishkar for report.

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